

Malika Abdul-Basir

From: Shannon Garrett <shannon72_1999@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 1:26 PM
To: Malika Abdul-Basir
Subject: Opposition to HB 5711, 5712, 5713

I am writing to register my strong opposition to HB 5711, 5712, and 5713, slated for committee consideration on Thursday, June 7, 2012.

These bills set a dangerous precedent for legislating health care. When I visit my doctor, my health care provider should be able to use their best medical judgment and offer all available medical options for my treatment. I trust my doctors - not my legislators - to help me make medical decisions that are in the best interest of my health and my future. HB 5711, 5712, and 5713 would severely limit an open and full discussion about medical options between me and my health care provider - and could in some circumstances threaten my own health, well-being, and life.

Michigan has far more immediate and pressing concerns at this time - the economy, unemployment, stagnant wages, environmental threats, and more - and the Michigan Legislature should concentrate on those issues, instead of wasting time and attention playing politics with women's health. The primary concern around women's health policy should be toward improving access for women to family planning and prenatal health care, expanding access to and insurance coverage of contraceptives, and provide abstinence plus education to our young people.

House Bills: 5711, 5712, and 5713 go too far and seem intended purely to stoke political divisiveness. These restrictions will not improve patient care or safety -- in fact they will actually drive up health care costs for patients and drive health providers out of practice. These politically motivated regulations will make it more difficult for health centers to provide high-quality health care and only make it harder for women and couples to access critical reproductive health care services, including lifesaving cancer screenings, contraception, STD prevention and treatment, and continued access to safe and compassionate abortion care. Denying women access to basic health care - especially given the many other obstacles we face because of our state's economy, jobs, wages, and health insurance costs - is immoral, offensive, and bad politics.

I urge the committee to reject House Bills 5711, 5712, and 5713 - and to get on with the business of identifying actual problems and creating reasonable solutions.

Sincerely,
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